

MEDIA RELEASE

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The Oldest Gym in Temple Receives a Major Facelift

(Temple) – Clarence Martin Gym is receiving a much needed renovation. The gym floor is being completely replaced. The gym is utilized by the Temple Parks and Leisure Services Department for numerous programs and special events including everything from basketball and volleyball to high school sports and summer camp activities. The gym is also available for the public to rent for sporting events and activities.

“Over the years there have been a few roof leaks and we have had to patch the floor in several places with wood that does not exactly match the original floor,” said Parks Superintendent Val Roming. “The floor is at least 27 years old. We have sanded and refinished the floor numerous times to the point where we can no longer sand and patch the floor so it must be replaced.”

The project will cost \$54,900 and is funded through a Community Development Block Grant. The floor should be finished and ready to use by May 2012.

Clarence Martin Gym was originally constructed in the 1930's. The gym was used by Temple Independent School District until around 1964. In 1965, the City of Temple Parks and Leisure Services Department acquired the building and was housed there until around 1986 when new offices were constructed in Wilson Park.

“Over the years thousands of people have used the gym for a variety of programs and special events - everything from basketball and volleyball to twirling competitions and high school sports,” said Athletic Coordinator Tracy Klusacek. “It is important that we maintain this gym to allow us the space for the many Parks and Leisure activities that occur at this gym on a daily basis.”

The gym has gone through a couple major updates. In the early 1990's, the building was renovated to make it ADA accessible. An elevator, ramps, and new restrooms were installed. In 2008, air conditioning was added to the gym. Now, the gym is receiving a new floor.

For more information about Clarence Martin Gym activities and rental opportunities, please contact Tracy Klusacek at 254.298.5582.

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